

□ 1100

Look, President Biden and, unfortunately not all, but many, Democrats and Republicans agree on this issue, but we need aggressive solutions to the issue.

If the United States of America does not lead, no one else will. They are looking to us for leadership. They are looking to President Biden for leadership. They are looking to Congress for leadership. We need every freedom-loving country to condemn this evil, tyrannical regime and their constant abuses of their people.

America and other countries should not do business with this Communist regime. As Biden himself said, they will only "enrich themselves," and that is what they do. Instead, we should use every pressure point we can to defend freedom and the basic rights for the Cuban people.

This is a heartfelt issue for many. We enjoy these freedoms, and sometimes we forget how tough it is and how much support people need in struggling countries like Cuba. Right now is the time to show strong support for the people of Cuba and for their basic human rights.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Creator, author and giver of our lives, we dare to approach You this morning with our prayers, knowing in faith that You are receptive to our requests and in Your mercy will attend to our needs.

And so we ask, that You would answer. We ask for Your favor as we bring before You our need for guidance, patience, and direction. Answer us with Your voice of clarity, Your calming presence, a sign to lead us forward in the way You would have us go.

We seek. We seek Your wisdom as we approach delicate and complex issues. May we find our way into the heart of each matter, that prejudices and politics would be left behind and Your truth would reveal itself to us.

Lord, we knock on doors that seem closed to conversation and compromise. Open for us opportunities

wherein we discover room for growth and cooperation, and may the doors of our own hearts be encouraged to open to possibilities we may be reluctant to consider.

To You who can do infinitely more than we could ever ask or imagine, we ask, we seek, we knock, that You in Your infinite mercy would give us this day what we need.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FEENSTRA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS ADVANCE IN THE HOUSE

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, Democrats are making sure that as a nation we build back better to create more jobs, cut taxes, and lower costs. President Biden's and congressional Democrats' economic plan to build from the bottom up and the middle out is working. America is getting back to work, and working families are seeing the results.

Jobs are coming back. Under President Biden's leadership in the past 6 months, the economy has gone from creating only 60,000 new jobs a month to creating 60,000 jobs every 3 days. Wages are rising. American workers are seeing long overdue pay raises, bringing home more money to their families, and powering economic growth that comes from the bottom up and the middle out.

Paychecks are growing.

The economy is growing. Thanks to Democrats' leadership, the economy is growing faster than at any time in the last 40 years. Independent projections from the Federal Reserve, the World Bank, and many others all forecast

America this year reaching the highest levels of growth in nearly four decades; and small business optimism is back to pre-pandemic highs.

KLAMATH BASIN

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, actions by the Federal Government are devastating the Klamath Basin on the north end of California and south Oregon. Earlier this year our government cut off all of the water for the Klamath Basin from the farmers and the wildlife in order to deal with Endangered Species Act rules for two competing species of fish.

Madam Speaker, you can see the devastation last year with a duck kill that happened inside the refuge. We did manage to rescue this one.

The wildlife refuge has no water. The farmers who also provide water, food, and resting areas for migratory birds now cannot provide food or habitat, and the entire basin is hurting. The government has created an ecological disaster that will result in the death of tens of thousands of federally protected migratory birds.

Last year when the Bureau of Reclamation reduced the water by more than half, 60,000 birds died of botulism. I toured this area last year, and it is indeed devastating. This year there is zero water.

There is no habitat for nesting birds and no feed for them from farmers. This is a government created disaster, and our environment and people are paying the price. We need to deliver the water that farmers own to the farmers, and that will also in turn help deliver water to the Federal refuge.

Federal courts and the Bureau of Reclamation need to get out of the way and let the people on the ground succeed for food and for our wildlife.

GROWN FLOWER MONTH

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of buying American-grown flowers. Whether it is celebrating a wedding, a graduation, or sending condolences, flowers have been used to mark significant occasions for thousands of years. I have seen the value this industry adds to our economy and communities during my visits with our hardworking central coast growers.

The cut-flower industry generates thousands of jobs and produces significant economic activity each year through flower farmers, distributors, and florists.

California grows an astonishing 70 percent of American-grown flowers, and yet only a fraction of the flowers sold across the country were grown here. That must change.

Last week, Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced a resolution to designate July as American-Grown Flower and Foliage Month to encourage consumers to shop local and buy flowers with a certified American-grown label. By passing H. Res. 542, we will honor the beauty this industry brings to our homes year-round and help keep our American-grown flower industry prosperous.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. RUTHERFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand for the sanctity of life and believe strongly in our responsibility to protect the unborn.

While I understand that the issue of abortion is one that divides many here in Congress, H.R. 18 does not universally ban all abortions. It would simply reinstate and make permanent the bipartisan Hyde amendment on a government-wide basis, which only prevents taxpayers from paying for the killing of unborn children.

It is what the majority of Americans want. In fact, a recent Marist Poll found that nearly 60 percent of Americans oppose taxpayer funded abortion. It is shocking and heartbreaking the Democrats would remove this critical protection from law after supporting it for over 40 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

JANUARY 6TH INSURRECTION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today the House convened the first public hearing of the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol and the very essence of American democracy.

In shocking, raw, and real testimony, four brave police officers shared stories of their harrowing experiences that day.

United States Capitol Police Sergeant Gonell, an 8-year veteran of the United States Army assigned to some of the most dangerous duties during

Operation Iraqi Freedom, said he was more afraid to work at the Capitol on that day than he was in his entire time serving his country in Iraq.

The video is hard to watch, and the testimony is emotional, but the committee's work promises truth and transparency. The events of January 6 would have yielded more death and destruction were it not for the United States Capitol Police.

We are grateful for them and to the committee for working to provide the answers and accountability needed to make sure this event never happens again.

HONORING MICHAEL SHUEY, OLYMPIC ATHLETE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week the 2020 Summer Olympics kicked off in Tokyo. For the next 2 weeks, we will see the best of the best compete in a variety of events.

This year the United States sent a 613-member team to compete in the Olympic Games. The journey to these games and to be on the 2020 Olympic team is unlike any other. For the first time in Olympic history, the games were postponed from last summer due to COVID-19.

Madam Speaker, Pennsylvania sent 21 athletes to Tokyo. But there is one member of the team I would like to honor today: Michael Shuey.

Michael is an Elk County, Pennsylvania, native and a 2016 graduate of Pennsylvania State University. Michael is a two-time NCAA Big Ten champion in javelin and a two-time NCAA Big Ten first team member. While in Tokyo he will be competing in the javelin throw.

Congratulations to Michael and to all the athletes on this incredible achievement. We are cheering for their success.

HEALTH CARE

(Mrs. MCBATH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, when I hear from our friends and neighbors across Georgia, there is no issue that families find more concerning than that of the cost of their healthcare.

As a two-time breast cancer survivor, access to quality healthcare is very, very personal to me. While I was in the hospital, all I had to do was focus on the strength of my family, the grace of the God that I love, and winning my battle with cancer.

Yet still, far too many families are forced to worry about paying for their chemotherapy versus affording the mortgage on their home. That is why I

continue to work so hard every day to expand affordable healthcare for families across Georgia and across the Nation and why I am so proud that my bill to cut healthcare costs for those who have been laid off during the pandemic was signed into law by our President.

No American should ever be forced to make the decision between putting food on the table or paying for their family's medical bills.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. FEENSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 18 which would make the Hyde amendment permanent.

This week we will consider the partisan Health and Human Services budget. It is unfortunate that Democrats are continuing their assault on the fundamental right to life in this bill. It kills the Hyde amendment which ensures taxpayer dollars cannot be spent on abortions.

Hyde has saved 2.5 million babies since it was enacted. My faith teaches me that every person is created for a purpose and a reason, and that is why I will always be a defender of the unborn. Americans should not be forced to fork over their taxpayer dollars so defenseless babies can be murdered on the taxpayer dime.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained without appropriate clearance.

ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

(Miss RICE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the fiscal year 2022 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which provides critical foreign assistance funding.

Specifically, I want to highlight that the bill fully funds the \$3.3 billion in security assistance to our ally Israel, without conditions or restrictions, preserving Israel's fundamental right to self-defense.

House passage of this bill would demonstrate America's unwavering commitment to Israel, and to achieving true peace and stability throughout the region. There should be no reason for anyone in this esteemed body to oppose it.